

Serial No.: 10/777,613
Attorney Docket No. 8S08.1-200

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (~~strike through~~ and double brackets [[]] indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A hunting ladder for attachment to a tree or pole, comprising:

a plurality of ladder sections that can be assembled together to form a rigid structure, including side rails and rungs extending between the side rails, the side rails comprising elongate structural beams, wherein the structural beams comprise double box I-beams having two box sections and a web extending therebetween;

external side bolsters adapted to be mounted to the outside of adjacent ladder sections to couple the ladder sections together, the external side bolsters being shaped to match and closely abut the structural beams, wherein the external side bolsters are permanently or semi-permanently mounted to one ladder section and can be removably mounted to an adjacent ladder section, wherein the side bolsters closely overlay the contours of the double box I-beams, including the web and the two box sections and wrap around distal edges of the box sections, and wherein the structural beams and the external side bolsters have shapes that mate together; and

fasteners extendable through the side bolsters and the structural beams to allow the adjacent ladder sections to be coupled together and uncoupled, as desired.

2. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a seat attached to an upper portion of the ladder without requiring attachment of the seat to the tree or pole.

3. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the plurality of ladder sections comprises three ladder sections.

4. – 6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the adjacent ladder sections can be coupled together without tools.
8. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the fasteners comprise threaded hand knobs.
9. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external side bolsters are removably attached to each of the adjacent ladder sections.
10. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the rungs have a top surface which is oriented at an acute angle relative to the side rails.
11. (Original) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the side rails comprise extruded aluminum and the rungs comprise extruded aluminum, with ridges formed in a top portion of the rungs for minimizing foot slippage.
12. – 14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently Amended) A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim [[5]] 1 wherein the structural beams and the side bolsters mate together with a precision fit.
16. – 22. (Cancelled)